GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:160
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
SAND MINING IN RIVER BEDS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale sand mining in river beds has resulted in sea water entering into the rivers and has caused serious structural instability of several bridges;

(b) if so, whether this has resulted in the intrusion of the salinity into the ground water; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith affected areas identified, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) The Ministry of Shipping, Road-Transport and Highways is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. As regards National Highways, no structural instability in bridges caused due to large-scale sand mining in river beds and intrusion of sea water has been reported.

(b) & (c) No instances of salinity intrusion in groundwater due to sand mining in river beds in coastal areas have been reported so far. Salinization of ground water along the major river courses in coastal areas is mainly due to sea water ingress during high tides.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has made a provision in the Andhra Pradesh Water, Land & Trees Act, 2002 to ban land mining in areas where it is observed that mining is creating a deteriorating effect on ground water system.